

SITUATION COMMENT

We have recently signed up to the National Biosecurity Business Pledge. This is a forum where information is shared, and networks are fostered. Whilst currently, the membership of 160+ organisations is weighted towards ports of entry and exporters, it is clear to all of us that the outbreak of FMD in Indonesia has raised biosecurity awareness here. There is a great deal of activity going on to ensure our systems are as ready as they can be should we have to initiate a response. We all have a part to play.

Foot-and-mouth disease - updates from Biosecurity New Zealand

- Biosecurity New Zealand is stepping up its work at the border with a campaign to ensure travellers do their part to protect farmers from foot-and-mouth disease.
- An on-the-ground audit of Indonesia's palm kernel supply chain shows it is meeting New Zealand's strict biosecurity requirements for foot-and-mouth disease (FMD).

Biosecurity is more than just what happens between countries it is also about what happens on and between farms, for example, those bulls do need to be tested for BVD and vaccinated. You should always sight the cert to see they are tested clear of virus and not just depend on someone's word! Even one chink in the armour can lead to a breakdown.

Calving generally started with a hiss and a roar with many reporting calving dates ahead of schedule. Problems to date have been on a par with other years. Feed is still a little tight in places but hopefully with daylight hours increasing the chance of much improved grass growth increases. Fortunately, we have seen less *Salmonella Brandenburg* so far in lamb abortions, but rotavirus is very prevalent as usual among calf scour outbreaks.

Keep up the good work out there everyone.

Morgan Greene MVB MANZCVS

BIT OF A LAUGH

How do you get your dog to stop barking in the front yard?

Put him in the back yard!



Pet Reminders

- Check for signs of unexpected pregnancy in cats
- Flea prevention
- Groom month

STAFF PET CORNER



The newest additions to the Stewart/Stanton Zoo
Introducing Thing 1 & Thing 2

Contents

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- Situation Comment
- Staff Pet Corner

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- Dairy Calf Worming
- Importance of iodine

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- Lamb Survival
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- Metricheking

NSVETS TOTAL VET CARE
CALENDAR COMPETITION

Best photo takes home \$500 cash
WANTED: photos of farming, pets or vets & local landscapes.

There is no age restriction, the competition is open to all (children, students and adults).
Artwork needs to be of sufficient quality for our website or 2023 calendar.
The contributing artist will be recognised.

Conditions of entry: All art remains the property of NSVets and is able to be used for publicity purposes. It must be of A4 size in the landscape setting.
All entries must be delivered to our Riversdale Clinic no later than 5pm 7th October 2022.

By entering the entrant agrees to these terms and conditions.

Email: fiona@nsvets.co.nz
101 Berwick Street
Riversdale (03) 202 5636



Deer Reminders

- Stags—copper pre velvetting
- Hinds—copper pre-calving
- Supplementary feed stags
- Sort stags into velveting mobs

DAIRY CALF WORMING

Many calves will soon be out at pasture. With pasture comes worms, and the temptation to drench. However, do not drench too soon. Calves will not have pasture parasites burdens until at least three weeks after grazing pasture. Even then intakes of worms are likely low as they are often in high pasture cover areas. Where challenge may be higher is if covers are short, calves are on restricted milk diets, and they are grazing paddocks consistently used by calves and seldom grazed by older cattle or other species.

Combination drenches are always the best choice to protect against drench resistance, and of these, orals are generally best at getting to the source. Three of the main worms we are concerned with are cooperia, ostertagia and trichostrongylus, as well as lung worm in summer. Levamisole should be included in the drench for the first year until calf immunity can combat cooperia. The ML's are useful for ostertagia and lung worm and should be included from the new year if not before.

When you do drench there are several things to consider.

- Check dose rates - several products have a minimum weight, particularly the MLs
- Never add drench to the milk – it is impossible to control dose rates
 - Do not drench while on the milk feeder.
 - The suckling reflex will divert the drench to the fourth stomach where it can be more toxic
- Consider drenching for coccidia – there is a drench available that has added coccidiostat which may be particularly important for calves re-grazing calf only paddocks.

Oral	Best application method for reliable absorption	Available in single, double and triple combinations
Injectable	2 nd best choice for application 'aids in the control of lice'	All are ML family, some have Levamisole (clear) in as well
Pour on	Last resort application. Farmer pays for convenience, but uptake is so varied in the animal. Only advantage is if lice control is also required.	All are ML family, some have levamisole as well.

Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Cattle Reminders

- Dairy calves—disbud
- Plan bloat control
- Mastitis - Review control programme
- Pre-mating trace element check
- Metricheck cows
- Blood test bulls for BVD
- BVD vaccination booster
- Plan non-cycler protocol
- Mating plan review

THE IMPORTANCE OF IODINE

Iodine to the foetus only comes from the mother and is important from day 70 of gestation. Deficiency in the ewe causes high perinatal loss. Testing in dead lambs is a good way to measure the issue on your farm.

Lambs born to iodine deficient ewes may have a lower metabolic rate, impaired suckling, and inability to control heat loss. They are often born premature by 3-7 days or may be still-born. They have less wool, are smaller and weak with less vigour. They may or may not have overt goitre (swellings in throat area). The mother may also have reduced milk production.

Iodine seems to be more deficient in the south particularly if pregnant ewes are fed brassica crops. Not only are these low in iodine, they have goitrogens in them which prevent uptake of iodine in the animal.

Contact us if you would like to investigate this on your farm.

Iodine - When do they need it?

Pre-mating: for more fecundity – more multiples, provided selenium is adequate.

Pregnancy: from 60-70 days of pregnancy – the heart, lung, brain, nervous system and wool follicles are developing at the end of the third month and are all influenced by iodine.

Pre-lamb – for lung surfactant and lung maturation improving lamb survival.

Also consider all animals 2 months prior to feeding of goitrogenic feed (brassicacs).



Rochelle Smith BVSc MANZCVS

Horse Reminders

- Vaccinate pregnant mares for salmonellosis, tetanus & strangles
- Watch ponies' condition for founder
- Clip horses out to remove winter coat

LAMB SURVIVAL

Many of you will still be working through the frustration of a poor scanning result, but this doesn't have to result in less lambs come weaning. In fact, many of you may find that your lamb numbers at weaning aren't that different to previous years. Scanning results for a lot of people resulted in more singles and less triplets which is naturally going to help lamb survival this spring. Whilst we all wait with bated breath that spring doesn't deliver a nasty storm, we are unfortunately now at the mercy of mother nature. Whilst paddock selection for lambing will have an influence on survival, it is too late for many of the other areas we can impact survival. Ewe body condition is set and can't be influenced this close to lambing, as are pasture covers, unless some strategic fertiliser is used. It is now also too late for any benefit from iodine if this wasn't done earlier. So, where does this leave us?

Measuring and monitoring...! If you don't know which paddocks most favour survival, now is the time to be collecting this information. Identifying your paddocks that are best and worst for survival can help with decision making for next year. This may be strategic planting for shelter or simply selecting where your most vulnerable ewes should lamb next season.

Collecting dead lambs for post-mortem can also be a useful tool, this can be done at the vet or by you on farm and can provide valuable information. The benefit of testing at the vet is measuring the thyroid to test for iodine deficiency – this is the most accurate way to determine whether iodine supplementation is necessary. We can also come out on farm and do a demonstration to staff on how to perform a post mortem – both on new born lambs and on older stock. Clostridial vaccination at tailing can also have an impact on survival if you typically lose a few good lambs before weaning. With current market prices you don't have to save many to make this worthwhile.

But overall, the biggest impact you can have on survival is ensuring ewes are in good body condition and are well fed. The flow on effects of this are also better lamb growth and more lambs killed off mum at weaning – win win! Setting this up for next season can require a major shift – selling lambs store before the autumn, adjusting lambing date, assessing stocking rate, supplementary feed and fertiliser use should all be considered. Feel free to contact me at the clinic if you want to discuss this further and break the cycle for next season.



Andrew Cochrane BVSc

REMOVAL AND DISPOSAL OF AN UNUSUAL GROWTH FROM BULLS HEAD



Mike Tapper BVSc

METRICHECKING

Metrichecking is used to identify 'dirty' cows that have pus in the uterus >2 weeks post calving. These cows have endometritis, which contributes to:

- Non-cycling cows
- Lower 6 week in-calf and conception rates
- Increased empty rates
- Reduced Days in Milk (DIM) next season

NZ Facts:

- NZ average = 25% of whole herds are metricheck positive.
- 10-20% of cows do not self-cure bacterial contamination post calving.
- An average 500 cow herd with 20% endometritis incidence can profit by \$5,500 just by metrichecking and treating **EARLY** in batches 2-4 weeks post calving, vs waiting to do one whole herd check 4 weeks prior to the planned start of mating (PSM).
- Treatment in batches improves 6 week in-calf rate by 9.6%, and 12 week in-calf rate by 3%.
- 71% of metricheck positive cows are NOT 'At-risk' cows. This shows the importance of whole herd metrichecking vs checking 'At-risk' cows only.
- 'At-risk' cows include assisted calving, twins, RFM/retained placenta, abortions, stillbirths, older cows, metabolic cows, low BCS at calving (<5.5 heifers, <5.0 cows).
- There is a positive return on investment (ROI) if more than 2% of your herd is treated, which is likely >95% of NZ herds.

Laura Gardyne BVSc